

**890 Linden Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland
ca. 1865
Private**

MIHP No. B-1371

Capsule Summary

The building at 890 Linden Avenue is a four-story brick row house constructed sometime in the late 1860s. Poised between Linden Avenue (formerly Garden Street) and Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard (formerly W. Biddle Street), the building once formed the end unit of a larger grouping of six row houses that stood along Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard. It embodies the typical features of a simple mid-century two-part commercial row house that accommodated both commercial and residential functions. It is also an example of modest style that was common in Post-Civil War Baltimore. Plain architectural features with minimal decorative moldings create a simple aesthetic, while the proportions used for the principle facades reveal the influence of the Greek Revival. Many of the original materials, particularly those at the ground story, have been altered or replaced since the building's construction. Moreover, since the recent demolition of the neighboring attached row houses, 890 Linden Avenue has become freestanding and remains as a fragment of the former row-house block.

Like the row houses that stood adjacent to it, 890 Linden Avenue was constructed to suit the demands for commercial and residential space during a time of rapid expansion in Baltimore. At the same time, the row-house block's construction was a sign of Baltimore's steady pattern of urban growth in the years following the Civil War. During its first one hundred years, the row house was poised in a key location between the north end of the commercial corridor along Howard Street and the primarily residential neighborhoods to the north and west. Reflecting the character of these neighborhoods, it blended residential housing in tenement apartments in the upper stories with the commercial opportunity of a small business at the street level.

By the early twentieth century, the blocks surrounding 890 Linden Avenue were converted for new public uses for larger institutions, transforming the contextual environment, its inhabitants, and the 890 Linden Avenue row house itself. In the wake of the sweeping development that altered the neighborhood in the latter half of the twentieth century, 890 Linden Avenue stands as a remnant of the former community of small commercial businesses, market stalls, and modest residences that catered to the ethnically and economically diverse communities that surrounded it for one hundred fifty years.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1371

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic 890 Linden Avenue (preferred)
other 301 Biddle Street

2. Location

street and number 890 Linden Street — not for publication
city, town Baltimore — vicinity
county Baltimore City

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Yong C. Kim Etal, Yong P. Kim
street and number 890 Linden Avenue telephone 410-669-2820
city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21201

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber SEB 3833 folio 301
city, town Baltimore tax map 11 tax parcel Block 501, Lot 37 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ 1 buildings
_____ site		_____ domestic	_____ sites
_____ object		_____ education	_____ structures
		_____ funerary	_____ objects
		_____ government	_____ 1 Total
		_____ health care	
		_____ industry	
		_____ landscape	
		_____ recreation/culture	
		_____ religion	
		_____ social	
		_____ transportation	
		_____ work in progress	
		_____ unknown	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		_____ other:	

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**
0

7. Description

Inventory No. B-1371

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Description Summary

The building at 890 Linden Avenue is a four-story brick row house constructed sometime in the late 1860s. Poised between Linden Avenue (formerly Garden Street) and Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard (formerly W. Biddle Street), the building once formed the end unit of a larger grouping of six row houses that stood along Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard. The building embodies the typical features of a simple mid-century two-part commercial row house that accommodated both commercial and residential functions. It is also an example of modest style that was common in Post-Civil War Baltimore. Plain architectural features with minimal decorative moldings create a simple aesthetic, while the proportions used for the principle facade reveal the influence of the Greek Revival. Many of the original materials, particularly those at the ground story, have been altered or replaced since the building's construction. Moreover, since the recent demolition of the neighboring attached row houses, 890 Linden Avenue has become freestanding and remains as a fragment of the former row house block.

[See Continuation Sheets]

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance		Check and justify below	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	Unknown	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	ca. 1865		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Significance Summary

The history of the architecture, its function, and its context within the greater landscape reveals the relationship between the 890 Linden Avenue row house and the growth and development of the city of Baltimore. Like the row houses that stood adjacent to it, 890 Linden Avenue was constructed to suit the demands for commercial and residential space during a time of the city's rapid expansion. The row-house block's construction was a sign of Baltimore's steady pattern of urban growth in the years following the Civil War. At the same time, the row house was poised in a key location between the north end of the commercial corridor along Howard Street and the primarily residential neighborhoods to the north and west that existed during the row house's first one hundred years. Reflecting the character of these neighborhoods, the building blended residential housing in tenement apartments in the upper stories with the commercial opportunity of a small business at the street level. By the early twentieth century, the blocks surrounding 890 Linden Avenue were converted for new public uses for larger institutions, transforming the contextual environment, its inhabitants, and the 890 Linden Avenue row house itself. In the wake of the sweeping development that altered the neighborhood in the latter half of the twentieth century, 890 Linden Avenue stands as a remnant of the former community of small commercial businesses, market stalls, and modest residences that catered to the ethnically and economically diverse communities that surrounded it for one hundred fifty years.

[See Continuation Sheets]

9. Major Bibliographical References

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[See Continuation Sheets]

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Less than 1 acre (63' x 60')
Acreage of historical setting Less than 1 acre (63' x 60')
Quadrangle name Baltimore East, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundaries following the perimeter of the building, forming an irregular five-sided at the northeast point of the west side of the 800 block of Linden Avenue. The northern boundary begins at the intersection between Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Linden Avenue, running southwest along the sidewalk adjacent to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the western corner of the house. The west boundary continues from this corner following southwest wall of the building to the southeast and east until it intersects with the sidewalk along Linden Avenue. The east boundary is formed by the building's east wall, which is directly adjacent to the west side of Linden Avenue.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Judith H. Robinson and Carrie K. Schomig, Architectural Historians		
organization	Robinson & Associates, Inc.	date	1/31/04
street & number	1909 Q St., NW, Suite 300	telephone	202-234-2333
city or town	Washington	state	DC 20009

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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890 Linden Avenue, Baltimore City, MD
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Introduction

Located in the northwest corner of the Mount Vernon ward of Baltimore, 890 Linden Avenue stands at the northern terminus of a narrow commercial extension that follows Howard Street northward from the larger downtown district to the south. The Maryland General Hospital complex encompasses most of the narrow blocks to either side of Linden Avenue, just south and southeast of the row house. The hospital is comprised of a variety of large buildings, some of which are connected by enclosed pedestrian bridges spanning Linden Avenue. An open parking lot occupies the lot to the immediate south of the row house. To the east, across Linden Avenue, stands the former Richmond Market, presently incorporated into the hospital complex. The Richmond Market building is a large two-story hall with a four-story ten-bay-wide Armory building at its south end, where it is attached with another Maryland General Hospital building. To the north of 890 Linden is Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard, a four-lane thoroughfare connecting the northwest Baltimore neighborhoods with Interstate 95. At the northwest edge of the boulevard, the city's orthogonal street grid turns at a 45-degree angle. The property north of 890 Linden Avenue is occupied by the State Center's governmental offices that are primarily comprised of large eight- and fifteen-story buildings.

The site consists of flat topography in an urban setting, set back from the adjacent streets by a concrete sidewalk. The row house has three principle facades, caused by its conformity to the angled property boundaries between Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard and Linden Avenue. The intersection between these two streets encloses a nearly triangular plot of land. The building's footprint is a five-sided irregular shape to accommodate the boundaries at this intersection.

The northwest, north, and east exterior elevations constitute a two-part commercial-residential building. The first story is at the ground level and is used for commercial space, while the upper stories are reserved for residential housing. The separation of commercial and private spaces is indicated on the exterior by the fenestration, bays, materials, and finishes. The three principle building facades are the northwest, northeast, and east facades, and are constructed of red-brick masonry walls laid in running bond. The commercial façade at the ground story is indicated with white paint covering the brick. Its fenestration is limited to the large storefront windows flanking the principle entrance at the narrow northeast facade. By contrast, the fenestration of the three stories above the ground level consists of regular bay openings with tall windows framed by plain stone lintels and sills. The proportions of the windows are graduated, with the largest window openings at the first and second stories and becoming shorter with each successive story above.

Overall, the three principle elevations exhibit little applied ornamentation, with only a plain stone stringcourse above the ground story and, most significantly, a tall brick parapet capped by a decorative cornice with a deep overhang supported by scrolled brackets and dentil moldings. The roof is flat, sloping slightly downward to the rear at the southeast, and covered by a flat material (unknown) painted black. The southwest and southeast facades are secondary, and comprising a former party-wall and the rear facade, respectively. These two facades are entirely covered in a concrete coating and are devoid of the stone lintels and sills and the decorative parapet and cornice of the principle facades.

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Northwest Facade

The northwest façade forms the longest elevation, facing Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard. The wall is red brick masonry in running bond pierced with seven bays. The brick at the first-story wall is painted white, and includes a large area enclosed by plywood with a large vent near the southwest end. The plywood appears to be a patch over a large opening that was cut into the wall, removing one of the original entrances along the street. The opening was likely added in the early twentieth century when the ground floor was divided into two commercial spaces, with the additional storefront operating out of a second entrance (now removed) along Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard.¹ Additionally, two thin ledges along the top of the first story appear to be former lintel pieces marking the positions of two former windows (now removed). At the southeast corner of the wall is a short section of marble veneer, measuring approximately 3' x 2', including a thin base. At the northeast end, the storefront projects out from the wall in a composition of vinyl siding below a large modern window (not original), capped by a pent-eave roof clad in brown asphalt shingles (not original). The pent eave is crowned by a narrow cornice with dentil molding along the width of the storefront window. Above the cornice, a plain limestone stringcourse runs along the entire width of the wall, delineating the ground story from the upper stories above. There, the red brick wall remains unpainted. Of the seven bays, the four bays at the southwest side are separated from the three at the northeast end by a vertical section of blank brick wall. The fenestration throughout the upper stories consists of simple limestone sills and lintels with graduated window proportions, all of which are boarded up with plywood. At the top of the wall, a bracketed cornice includes an imitation frieze that has been created by painting a wide band of the brick wall in dark brown to match that of the decorative cornice above and a narrow molding below.

Northeast Facade

The northeast face forms the narrow corner storefront with a single bay at each of the three stories above. The first story contains the projecting storefront (not original) set at the ground level. This is composed of a glazed wall framed in dark metal to include two large, metal-framed windows flanking swinging glass double doors, with three short transom windows above. This assemblage is covered by a pent eave covered in brown asphalt shingles, which also holds the sign for the Deli that occupies the first floor of the building. At the top of the first story, a cornice with a dentil molding below the limestone stringcourse continues across the façade just below a limestone stringcourse. The red brick masonry of the upper three stories is left unpainted. The window at the second story is 4/6 double-hung sash. The third story window opening is shorter and boarded in plywood. The fourth story window is 1/1 double-hung sash. Sections of the brick wall between the second- and third- and the third- and fourth-story windows appears to have been either replaced or re-pointed with noticeable differentiation from the wider courses of mortar in these areas. All three windows are framed in wood and include plain limestone sills and lintels. At the top of the wall, a commercial sign covers the frieze below the decorative dentil moldings, brackets, and cornice, all of which continue from the adjacent facades.

¹ This division first appears in the 1914 Sanborn Map, vol.2. The Map also indicates that the store designation applies to the first floor only.

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East Facade

The east facade fronts Linden Avenue and consists of a four-story two-bay brick wall laid in running bond. The wall at the ground story is painted white with the projecting storefront (not original) at the north end of the wall. Matching the northwest storefront facade, this consists of a large window composed of three transom lights above three windows framed in a dark metal, capped by a brown shingled pent eave and supported by a short wall covered in vinyl siding. Above, the short cornice over the northeast storefront continues across the wall to the end of the storefront. A small storage shed with a large rolling metal door (not original) is attached to the center of the ground-floor wall. Near the south end of the wall is a single door framed with a wide molded vinyl frame (not original). The doorstep is concrete aggregate and the entrance opening is not aligned with the fenestration of the upper stories above. Consistent with the other three principle facades, the red brick wall of the upper three stories has been left unpainted, pierced by two windows at each story. The longest, second-story window openings include a 6/4 wood-framed window to the north, while the south window has been boarded. Similar to the other principle elevations, the sections of brick wall between the windows' sill and lintels show brick patching using red brick, but revealed by the slightly wider pointing used between the brick. A small section of brick south of the south window at the second story also shows some brick patching. Several of the shorter third- and fourth-story windows are boarded with plywood while others are enclosed with a variety of 1/1 double-hung windows. At the top of the wall, the cornice and its frieze at the parapet are continued from the northeast facade and turns the south corner of the facade to finish the cornice feature.

Southeast Facade

The southeast elevation forms the rear of the row house. The wall is irregular, turning to the southeast for the depth of one bay before turning back to the southwest direction. All the walled surfaces are covered in cement plaster. At the ground story is a flat-roofed single-story attachment with only a metal door at the east side. The northeast side of the wall is 1-bay, with simple 4/4 wood-frame windows of equal size at the three upper stories, all of which are equipped with a metal fire escape attached to the wall. To the southeast of this, a metal rectangular vent runs against the wall from the roof of the projecting ground story up to a ventilator atop the roof. The small portion of projecting wall at the center of the face is similarly pierced by three equal 4/4 double-hung sash windows at the three upper stories, some of which are boarded with plywood. The southeast side face includes one window at each story, composed with the same features as those at the adjacent walls. A metal pipe runs from a gutter at the roof via the wall along the southwest corner to the ground-story wall. At the roof, the parapet and accompanying cornice do not continue from the adjacent east face.

South Facade

The south facade is narrow, covered in stucco concrete and consisting of one bay. While there are no windows at the first story, the second, third, and fourth stories include small, nearly square windows framed in wood, which, altogether are aligned slightly off-center to the east with respect to the wall. The slight slope at the roof to the east finishes the top of the wall with a metal gutter.

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Southwest Facade

The southwest facade is entirely clad in stucco concrete and devoid of openings of any kind. The wall is defined by two chimney shafts which project slightly from the wall, rising above the roof with two simple, rectangular chimneys of the same height. At the east end of the wall, the wall of the south face projects slightly beyond the southwest wall. The downward slope of the roof from the northwest end to the southeast side is apparent at the top of the wall, which lacks a parapet or cornice.

Interior

The interior of the first floor is an open space, with the exception of two narrow fluted columns of iron near each side of the door at the northeast face. The building at 890 Linden Avenue is currently used for commercial purposes, with a small deli occupying the entire ground-floor space. The three stories above are vacant.

The building and its context have been altered significantly since its 1860s construction. Alterations over the past fifty years include the removal of the original storefront door, windows, and their frames that were replaced with tinted glass in metal frames of the modern style. Additionally, the shed attachment to the first floor of the east facade, and the former window and door openings on the first floor of the northwest facade have been completely filled in with brick and plywood. The most significant transformation was the removal of the immediate context, comprised of the neighboring five row houses that were attached to the party wall that now forms the building's southwest elevation. The parking lot that has since replaced the neighboring dwellings leaves the row house fragmented at the corner of Linden Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard. The broader removal of the larger context of residential neighborhoods with similar small businesses along the adjacent streets punctuates the loss of historical context within the past fifty years.

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The Transformation of a Commercial and Residential Neighborhood

In the late seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries, Baltimore's wealth began to flourish from the trade brought during the Napoleonic Wars. By 1800, Baltimore had become a major port city with a swiftly growing population that placed it third in the nation, surpassing the populace of Boston and of Charleston. From 1800 onward, Baltimore continued to swell with as many as 20,000 new residents every decade.¹ As the existing neighborhoods became saturated with commercial and residential buildings, prospectors began to look to the city's outskirts for urban expansion.

Before the northward corridors along Eutaw and Howard Streets became parceled into urban lots, northwest Baltimore existed as part of the rural topography that ringed the downtown of Baltimore. Maps drawn in 1801 and 1823 show the area's transition from rural land dotted with country estates into a newly laid city grid of vacant blocks.² In 1801, the north extent of the city grid ended at New Street, leading to Biddle Street, which, at that time, was a short diagonal street linking a few connecting roads to the rural areas farther northwest (Figure 1). On the site near where the 890 Linden Avenue row house would be later constructed, a tripartite building is shown, labeled "Poor House," along with a four-square geometric garden. This building was the almshouse erected by the Trustees for the Poor of Baltimore County in 1773, on a twenty-acre property that was bound by Biddle Street and Richmond Street.³ The almshouse and a country dwelling depicted to the east were the only structures shown within the vicinity of the present development along the 800 block of Linden Avenue.⁴

After tripling the acreage of the city with a large annex, the city of commissioners hired Thomas H. Poppleton, an engineer-surveyor, to draw an organizational plan for the new land, harmonizing it with the existing city grid. In 1823, Poppleton's map delineated new streets across former tracts of undeveloped land, revealing that the newly drawn blocks north of Centre Street remained largely un-built (Figure 2). Many of Poppleton's suggestions were followed, including his proposal for the location of the Richmond Market. This new Market was to be located at a prominent location to the east of the 890 Linden Avenue property. Although the almshouse is still shown on Poppleton's map, its location obstructs the new northern extension of Eutaw Street, foretelling the fate of the building, which was later demolished.⁵ By the 1830s, the almshouse and its property had reverted to the use of the Bolton railroad depot by the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad.⁶ Garden Street appears for the first time on the 1823 map, beginning at Madison Avenue and stretching northward in between Howard and Eutaw Streets. The blocks to either side of Garden Street remain undeveloped. The Richmond Market was officially established by the city government as early as 1831. It was located where Poppleton had placed it—at the increasingly important juncture at the intersection between Garden Street, Biddle

¹ Mary Ellen Hayward, "Urban Vernacular Architecture in Nineteenth-Century Baltimore," *Winterthur Portfolio* 16 (Spring, 1981): 35.

² 1801 map, drawn by Warner and Hanna's, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

³ Sherry Olsen, *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981), p.13.

⁴ 1801 map, drawn by Warner and Hanna's, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

⁵ 1823 Map, *Plan of the City of Baltimore, 1823*, Thomas H. Poppleton, surveyor, Joseph Cone, engraver, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

⁶ Olsen, 83.

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Street, Howard Street, and, to the northeast, Richmond Street, for which the market is named. The market opened in 1834 and soon became the focal point its growing surroundings.

In 1834, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore granted and conveyed a large amount of land to John B. Morris, a prominent citizen and wealthy landowner.⁷ Morris' holdings included the undeveloped site of 890 Linden Avenue.⁸ Although buildings began to appear on the blocks surrounding the 890 Linden Avenue site by 1842, the land to the north of Biddle Street and west of Madison Street still remained largely undeveloped.⁹

By 1851, construction in the neighborhood increased significantly, nearly filling out the block at the east side of Garden Street, due south of the Richmond Market, while the west side of Garden Street, however, continued to be largely vacant.¹⁰ Nevertheless, plans for development were underway. Over the course of the 1850s and 1860s, Morris subdivided his property by selling and leasing individual lots along Eutaw Street, adjacent to the intersection of Biddle and Garden Street. A map drawn in 1862 reveals the newly constructed row houses in one long, continuous block along Eutaw Street that ends just south of Biddle Street (Figure 3).¹¹ By this time, construction along Garden Street, a relatively secondary street, was more sporadic by comparison. There, three independent structures were sited along the central portion of the block. The Richmond Market continued to stand as the most prominent establishment in the immediate area.

Following the Civil War, row house development intensified, spreading from the city core to the rural land at the northern edges of the city. The row houses built on the north side of the 800 block of Linden Avenue were part of this wave of construction. In 1860, John B. Morris rented the vacant property encompassing the entire north end of the block along the south side of Biddle Street between Eutaw and Garden Streets. The lessee was Ichabod Jean, a real estate broker, who had acquired several properties in the vicinity in the recent years.¹² After ten years of renting the property, Jean's annual payments permitted him to purchase the deed for the entire property from Morris. The following year, in 1871, Jean sold the property to John N. Matthews.¹³ It is likely that shortly before this deed transfer, Jean, as a real estate developer, built a speculative block of six row houses along the northern edge section of the block facing Biddle Street, including 890 Linden Avenue at the northeastern end. The 1860s construction date is supported by a highly detailed aerial drawing of Baltimore in 1869 (Figure 4).¹⁴ This rare depiction shows the row house at 890 Linden Avenue, recording it for the first time pictorially. The aerial view also shows the density of the buildings that were interspersed with churches and other public venues in the neighboring city blocks to the north and west.

⁷ John B. Morris (1785-1874), married to Ann Maria Hollingsworth, was a prominent resident in Baltimore, serving as a member of on the City Council. Per conservation with Francis O'Neil of the Maryland Historical Society, 1/28/04.

⁸ Deed from Block Book 501 (1851-61), on file at the Baltimore City Courthouse.

⁹ 1838 Map, *Baltimore*, G.W. Boynton; 1842 Map, *Plan of Baltimore*, R.J. Matchett, Publisher, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

¹⁰ 1851 Map, *Plan of the City of Baltimore*, Isaac Simmons, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

¹¹ 1862 Map, *Martenet's Map of Maryland* [including insets of a Plan of Washington and Georgetown, City of Baltimore, and Eastern Virginia], Simon J. Martenet, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

¹² Deeds listed in Block Book 501, (1851-86), on file at the Baltimore City Courthouse.

¹³ Liber GR 491, folio 517, on file at the Baltimore City Courthouse.

¹⁴ 1969 Map, *Bird's Eye View of the City of Baltimore, 1869*, E. Sachse, & Co., Publisher.

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When 890 Linden Avenue was constructed, Baltimore was experiencing a long era of continuing economic growth that was characterized in the mid-nineteenth century as period of newfound industry. The city had gained a water system and a city hall, and new philanthropic institutions emerged, only adding to the increasing wealth among the growing population.¹⁵ Moreover, the railroad was established with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad connecting the city to the Ohio River Valley by 1852.¹⁶ The burgeoning economic opportunities brought in by the industrial age drew many new residents to the city.

For the neighborhood surrounding the Richmond Market, changes came in the form of residential development and the arrival of domestic and foreign immigrants. Soon after the Civil War, the merchant houses downtown became replaced with commercial structures that pushed new residential development outward, including the northwest reaches—a movement that was facilitated by the new Citizens Passenger Railway.¹⁷ Brick row houses with simple, but elegant details, such as marble stoops, were erected by the block along the city grid to the north and west of 890 Linden Avenue. In the 1860s and 1870s, Baltimore gained a significant community of immigrants from Germany, many of whom came to make the developing neighborhood their home.¹⁸ Soon the area became an enclave of German middle-class residents and new businesses, which existed in juxtaposition with the wealthier established neighborhood of Mount Vernon to the east, and the dense commercial blocks to the south.

As the late nineteenth century approached, the blocks to the immediate north and northwest of the row house began to experience an ethnic transformation. What was once a neighborhood predominantly inhabited by immigrant residents was becoming Baltimore's first African American neighborhood, now called Old West Baltimore. For the first time, Baltimore's African American population, which was only ten percent of the city population at that time, merged together and relocated to the area to immediate northwest of 890 Linden Avenue.¹⁹

The movement began in 1885, when African Americans fled the overcrowded neighborhoods and unhealthy alleyways of South Baltimore. Many more of the new residents were the displaced from two hundred African American dwellings that were demolished to construct the Camden Station expansion. Additionally, during the decades following the Civil War, many black Americans migrating north from southern states and from rural Maryland chose to settle in Baltimore. As they moved into the West Baltimore neighborhood, the German families that inhabited the once-northwest edge of the city moved farther northwest, pushing urban development outward. The migration continued, and by 1904, half of Baltimore's African American population resided in West Baltimore.²⁰

¹⁵ Wilbur Harvey Hunter, "Baltimore Architectural History," *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture* (Cambridge: Tidewater Publishers, 1981): 12.

¹⁶ Ibid, 13.

¹⁷ Shivers, 157. Olson, 167.

¹⁸ The peak of the German neighborhoods is considered to be 1866-77. While there were many German residents in the northwest areas surrounding the Richmond Market, the most prominent German neighborhoods during this period were in southwest and northeast Baltimore. Ibid, 167.

¹⁹ Maps show that "Garden Street" was renamed "Linden Avenue" sometime between 1887 and 1896. Elizabeth Fee, Linda Shopes, and Linda Zeidman, Eds., *The Baltimore Book: New Views of Local History* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991): 57.

²⁰ Ibid, 59.

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Although many of the houses of West Baltimore were modest brick row houses, the neighborhood was socially and economically diverse. Many prominent black citizens and leaders lived beside modest renters and the poor working class. Over time, a small section across the street from 890 Linden, called Biddle Alley, became an urban slum. The houses and alleyways were blighted by overcrowding, poor sanitation, and economic hardship in the aftermath of the depression of the 1890s. Biddle Alley was nicknamed "Lung Block" from its high incidence of Tuberculosis (Figure 5). Today, many of the original residences along the streets to the northwest have been demolished and replaced with public housing tenement blocks and State Center, the modern government office complex. The remains of Old West Baltimore continues as the oldest African-American neighborhood in the city.²¹

By 1890, a new hospital facility brought the growth of public institutions closer to the 890 Linden Avenue than ever before, a movement that would later become magnified in the twentieth century. Begun in 1880 as a medical school, the hospital, now the Maryland General Hospital, became established by the early twentieth century. As the institution grew, it started to construct new buildings northward toward 890 Linden Avenue, which came to replace many of the smaller modest buildings along Linden Avenue and Biddle Street.²²

The residential neighborhood surrounding the row house disappeared as the neighborhood converted from a mixed-use residential and commercial corridor to one occupied by the large hospital complex and offices buildings for the state government. In the 1960s, city officials targeted the neighborhood surrounding the Richmond Market as a slum. Along with other neighborhoods, it was slated for demolition, removing alleyways, and separating the commercial district from the housing with new zoning codes. A wave of government-sponsored urban renewal replaced countless row house blocks with public housing units, prompting the local businesses to relocate to the distant reaches of the expressways. The block north of 890 Linden Avenue along Biddle Street that was once called "Lung Block" was replaced with a public school. Next to this, the state government constructed a cluster of modern high-rise blocks. To the south, the Maryland General Hospital expanded northward to incorporate the Richmond Market, then vacant, and at the same time, constructed facilities near the rear of the 890 Linden Avenue row house.²³

During these dramatic changes, the six row houses along Biddle Street remained standing. They were demolished by the Maryland General Hospital in the late 1990s, with the exception of 890 Linden Avenue row house at the northeast end.²⁴ Today, 890 Linden Avenue is a solitary remnant of the formerly vibrant community of shops, markets and a variety of housing during its heyday the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century. The building now stands sandwiched between an open parking lot and the traffic congestion of Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard, formerly named Biddle Street, which is currently used as a four-lane access road from west to northeast Baltimore.

²¹ Ibid, 61.

²² "Hospital Expands Outpatient Department to Armory," *Evening Sun*, Oct. 1, 1973.

²³ Olsen, 373-81.

²⁴ Per conversation with William P. McMahon, Senior Vice President, Administration, Maryland General Hospital, 1/15/04.

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Row-house Style and Typology: 890 Linden Avenue in Context

With the throngs of new residents arriving in Baltimore from the early nineteenth-century onward, the city faced a shortage of housing. The demand for affordable housing for the emerging working and middle class and for dwellings that could be constructed efficiently became an increasingly pressing concern. Constructing row houses presented the ideal solution, fulfilling the preferences of builders and buyers alike. By definition, a row house is a dwelling with party-walls, or shared walls, that adjoin a typically narrow house with the neighboring dwellings attached to either side along a street. The high density of row houses in repetition along a street block presented a cost-effective method for a speculative builder to fit many more single-family houses onto one block than the traditional townhouse dwelling would allow, given its separation from its neighbors by yards or alleyways. The row house typology had been used in Europe during the previous two centuries, but arrived in Baltimore by 1790 through its close connection with Philadelphia, where England's direct influence catalyzed the predominant building of row houses.²⁵ In Baltimore, row house construction became popular quickly, and by the early nineteenth century, it had become characterized as a city of brick row houses in its own right.²⁶

The plethora of row house construction that ensued throughout the nineteenth century made the simple brick row house block synonymous with the vernacular architecture of Baltimore. As the Baltimore grew, the cost of land rose, and consequently, the option to build was limited to the wealthy or an affluent real estate speculator.²⁷ The surge of residents in the early nineteenth century made speculative development an exceptionally lucrative business. The builder was able to build cheaply by conserving high-quality brick for only the front and rear facades.²⁸ The economy of building a row house block and its frugal use of land made it a popular choice for the middle and working classes.²⁹ The buyer saved money in his investment, particularly in light of the fact that row houses in Baltimore were cheaper to buy than in comparable cities.³⁰ At the same time, the party walls provided heat conservation, and brick and stone materials were readily available to Baltimore builders. As the population grew and wealth increased, builders began building rows from, initially, six or twelve row houses to larger groups of eight to twenty houses.³¹ A secondary result of the row house blocks at the city core is that they maintained the compact density of the city, since the hilly topography of the regions outside the city boundaries inhibited builders from building low-density, sprawling developments.³²

In Baltimore, the overall aesthetic approach to speculative row houses was one of simplicity and economical uniformity (Figure 7).³³ Builders and residents alike embraced the plain federal style

²⁵ England's influence of row houses, or "terraces," dominated those demonstrated by other European countries in Philadelphia. William John Murtagh, "The Philadelphia Row House," *JSAH* 16 (December, 1957) 8-9.

²⁶ Alexander, 65.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Shivers, 21.

²⁹ Wright, 30.

³⁰ Shivers, 16-17.

³¹ Ibid, 9.

³² Ibid, 15.

³³ Gwedolyn Wright, "Row upon Row in the Commercial City," *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America* (New York: Pantheon, 1981): 31-2.

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of classical proportions, geometric shapes, and a lack of ornament.³⁴ An abundance of clay from the surrounding land produced a surplus of high quality red brick, some of which was exported to other large cities. White marble accents were used to adorn the brick walls and quickly became the prototypical feature of the Baltimore row house. The marble was applied to the façade in the trim and, most famously, marble steps to the front entrance. The marble was obtained cheaply by builders from local quarries and thus, did not thwart the row houses' affordability. Still, the builder used marble with strategic minimalism to add a hint of luxury and a break in color for an otherwise simple red-brick dwelling facade.³⁵

The Baltimore row house style was a modification of early prototypes that were made simpler and, as a result, more assessable to the middle class. Speculative builders adapted their characteristically plain details from architect William Small, whose work is said to have reflected the humble qualities espoused by the middle class. Building efficiently while using honest materials, such as unpainted red brick and simple stone sills for the fenestration, soon became the overriding aesthetic of the speculative real estate developer. However, while they borrowed architectural features and proportions from architects such as Small, the builders rarely used architects, but instead adopted plans and details drawn in pattern books.³⁶

The simple design of the row house made it easy to build, allowing the building industry to blossom quickly in the nineteenth century. Although, by the mid-nineteenth century, the typical middle-class row house rose three stories tall, two to three bays wide, the plans could be easily modified to be taller or deeper to accommodate a variety of incomes while the simple aesthetic treatment of the façade was typically retained regardless of size.³⁷ The row house neighborhoods were not necessarily separated by class, but, instead, the resident's wealth was exhibited on the exterior by the height and width of the row house.³⁸ In light of the uniformity, the pattern of row house development had a democratic characteristic that distinguished them from comparable American cities.

Until the late nineteenth century, speculative builders preferred to build in conservative styles. Through the mid-nineteenth century, Baltimore was apprehensive about the fashionable styles that Philadelphia and New York had adopted a more high-style version of the architectural trends. In Baltimore, on the other hand, builders preferred to continue to build in the more conservative variant of the simple, brick Federal style. If styles were followed, they were usually a modest version.³⁹ This was in part due to the direct effect of the success of the builder's investment, causing him to adhere to safer, traditional styles.⁴⁰ Builders and residents did embrace the Greek Revival style, which caught on in 1820 and persisted until 1845. The Greek Revival closely resembled the Federal style with its red brick walls and marble trim, but featured taller elevations with longer windows.⁴¹ In the 1830s and 1840s, long rows of row houses were built in Federal

³⁴ Shivers, 9-11.

³⁵ Where marble was still too expensive, white painted wood steps were used as a substitute. Shivers, 18.

³⁶ Three pattern books were published by John Hall, an architect-engraver, while others were authored by foreign architects. Ibid, 13-16.

³⁷ The fashion for using brick persisted until 1900. Hayward, 44. Shivers, 13-16.

³⁸ The wealthy followed the latest stylish trends for their interiors, rather than the facade. Shivers, 16, 23.

³⁹ Shivers, 19.

⁴⁰ Ibid, 23.

⁴¹ Ibid.

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Hill neighborhood to the south in North Baltimore. The brick bonding became simpler over time, changing from Flemish bond to common bond or running bond in the latter half of the century.

The design for the row house at 890 Linden Avenue is an example of a typical post-Civil War nineteenth-century Baltimore row house. Architectural tastes did not change following the Civil War, and the momentum of speculative building continued as it had before the war. New technologies and building techniques, such as using standardized parts, made mass building cheap and efficient. Reflecting this, 890 Linden Avenue's red brick walls in running bond and simple fenestration closely adhered to the pattern of row house architecture in Baltimore. Like many others constructed during the late 1860s, the narrow, graduated fenestration shows the influence of Greek Revival proportions. The lack of decorative moldings and the simple limestone window sills and lintels of the upper stories presented an economical façade.⁴² The principle elevations along Biddle Street to the intersection of Linden Avenue were often topped off by a bracketed cornice, which became a popular decorative addition by 1850.⁴³ The service access was located in the rear of the house by way of Garden Street. The use of a rear alleyway or secondary street at the rear was a common arrangement in Baltimore. Overall, the composition of the row house's façade made a reserved statement, allowing the focus on the northeast corner of the ground story where the entrance to the corner store created the façade's dominant feature.

The height of the 890 Linden Avenue row house reflects its location at the boundary between residential districts to the north and west and the commercial and public realms to the south and east (Figure 6). The Linden Avenue row house's four-story rise was easily divided into a two-part commercial block, the most common urban building type in the country. This designation is defined by a ground-story zone used for business that was visually distinct from the upper stories, which were reserved for private spaces, such as apartment tenements. The two-part commercial building of the 1860s was taller than commercial buildings of the early nineteenth-century, allowing the landholder to economize on the rising value of the land in the city. Typically, the building rose as tall as four or five stories, while, in contrast, many of the residential row houses were only three stories high.⁴⁴ The two-part building type emerged in the 1850s and predominated for the following one hundred years. While they were most often built during periods of urban expansion in the mid-nineteenth century, for Baltimore, the mid-century construction came from the city's continuously steady growth before and after the Civil War.⁴⁵

Stylistic adaptations in Baltimore during the mid-nineteenth century accommodated well to the two-part commercial building, as exemplified by the 890 Linden Avenue row house. Its low, flat roof reflects the pattern of a roof pitch that decreased over time and continued until the end of the nineteenth century—as new technologies in construction allowed builders to eliminate the need for steeply pitched roofs. Although some expensive buildings employed exuberantly molded cast iron for the façade, at the time, most buildings still used masonry construction for the upper stories above the ground level. Nevertheless, 890 Linden Avenue did incorporate two narrow, fluted cast-iron columns near the entrance within the ground floor storefront, thereby eliminating

⁴² James Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "From Elegant Townhouse to Plain Row house: The Party-Wall House," *Old-House Journal* (August-September 1985): 154.

⁴³ Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press, 2000): 24-29.

⁴⁴ Hunter, 16.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 24-29.

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heavy masonry columns to allow for an open floor plan.⁴⁶ After 1850, first-story windows on row houses became larger than ever before, thanks to the increasingly economical availability of plate glass.⁴⁷ The storefront windows at the northeast façade of 890 Linden Avenue followed this trend. The glazed storefront also served a secondary purpose of distinguishing the business storefront from the apartment tenements above.

It is likely that the arrangement of tenement housing in the three stories above the commercial space at the ground floor originates at its construction, based on the numerous renters that took residence in the building during the early years of occupation.⁴⁸ Moreover, John N. Matthews, the building's owner from 1871 until 1927, did not live above his store when it was open, instead opting to continue living in a dwelling on Pennsylvania Street near North Avenue.⁴⁹ This serves as further proof that the upper floors were originally divided into apartments. Similarly, the first-story commercial space was likely part of the original construction. In 1871, Matthews, a grocer, bought the 890 Linden Avenue row house, then known as 301 Biddle Street.⁵⁰ Taking advantage of the proximity to the patrons of the Richmond Market across the street, Matthews relocated his grocery store from the Centre Market on Centre Street to the corner of 890 Linden Avenue.⁵¹ At 890 Linden Avenue, Matthews opened "J.N. Matthews Groceries," operating the business out of the storefront at the northeast facade. An illustrated advertisement for the store depicts the grocery store the 1898 edition of the "Society Visiting List, or Blue Book," providing remarkably rare insight into the appearance of the building at that time (Figure 8). The drawing simply depicts the entire northeast elevation, with views to the east and northwest elevations as well. The storefront is clearly delineated from the three upper stories above, and features a prominent storefront windows flanking a central entrance. A second entrance with an arched opening is shown at the approximate center of the northwest wall, opening directly onto the street. The two first-floor windows closest to the storefront are not aligned with the windows of the upper stories, distinguishing the business level from the residential spaces above. Additionally, these two windows are shown with shutters in contrast to the un-shuttered windows above and to the west end of the first story.⁵² This illustration demonstrates the relationship between the row house and the streetscape, while confirming that the northeast elevation with its main storefront and entrance as the principle elevation.

Building Use: Linden Avenue's Commercial and Residential Functions

When John N. Matthews acquired the building in 1871, the surrounding neighborhood was still growing along with the population of Baltimore. As soon as speculative builders filled in the empty city grid with long stretches of brick row houses, newly arrived immigrants settled into the neighborhood surrounding Garden Street to the north and west.⁵³ For Matthews and his neighbors, one of the main attractions to the neighborhood was likely the Richmond Market.

⁴⁶ Hunter, 16.

⁴⁷ Longstreth, 24-29.

⁴⁸ Block Book, 501, 1851-86, on file at the Baltimore City Courthouse.

⁴⁹ Baltimore City Directory, 1875, on file at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

⁵⁰ Liber GR 491, Folio 517, on file at the Baltimore City Courthouse.

⁵¹ 1872 Baltimore City Directory, on file at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

⁵² *Society Visiting List or Blue Book* (Baltimore: Guggenheim, Weil & Co., 1898): 144.

⁵³ A new fire law in 1799 required brick construction in Baltimore, replacing the construction of timber-framed dwellings. Hayward, 37.

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While the Market had existed as an impermanent structure at the intersection between Biddle and Howard Street since 1831, in 1871, plans to replace the market spaces with a large brick market house were well underway. The market's new building opened in 1873, housing 250 stalls underneath a large brick structure that stretched northward, covering one-third of the east block of Garden Street (Figure 9). A large armory for the Fifth Regiment, the local militia, was included, attached to the south end of the building.⁵⁴ At that time, the Richmond Market was one of eleven markets erected by the City of Baltimore to provide large venues for a variety of local vendors. Although the Lexington Market was the largest in the city, stretching across three city blocks to the south, the Richmond Market was distinguished by its wealthier, catering to the affluent households of the Mount Vernon neighborhood to the immediate east and southeast. Richmond Market became characterized by the expensive goods and the butlers who shopped there, and, known as the "aristocrats' market," was considered to be the most prestigious public marketplace in Baltimore.⁵⁵

With its newly erected and architecturally dignified edifice, the Richmond Market and its vicinity quickly became the center of commercial activity in the neighborhood. Business owners with shops near the market probably benefited from the customers and the accompanying activity in the streets. Outside of the Market walls, small shops, such as bakeries and dairy stores, lined Biddle Street and Howard Street.⁵⁶ While the west side of the block remained primarily residential through at least 1914, the east block along Linden Avenue was characterized by a number of small, freestanding structures housing small business, all of which faced the Richmond Market across the street. In 1890, the stores alongside 890 Linden Avenue included a variety of shops selling produce, a catering business, a picture-framing and gilding shop, a livery, and an upholstery store.⁵⁷ However, to the west of 890 Linden Avenue, among the five other attached row houses along Biddle Street, only 890 Linden Avenue included commercial space. For the first fifty years, the juxtaposition between the grocery store and the Richmond Market must have been a fruitful one, as Matthews' grocery store continued to occupy the space for fifty-five years, finally closing in 1926.

With the rise of automobile ownership shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, patrons to the Richmond Market arrived to the neighborhood by car, dramatically altering the streetscape along Linden Avenue that separated the row house from the Market. Vendors adapted to the automobile traffic by spilling out from the interior Market space to the streets, occupying the stretch along Linden Avenue between Read and Biddle Streets.⁵⁸

Following the twenties, however, the era of the Richmond Market steadily declined, with only sixty percent of the stalls occupied in 1937.⁵⁹ Two years later, the northern extension to the market hall was demolished and replaced with road improvements, including streetcar tracks between Linden Avenue and Read Street, as part of a plan to mediate increased traffic along Biddle Street.⁶⁰ The Market's operations became more precarious in the following decades as the

⁵⁴ "Richmond Market is Made Smaller," *The Baltimore Sun*, Aug. 20, 1939.

⁵⁵ "I Remember When Butlers Shopped at Richmond Market," *The Evening Sun*, Dec. 5, 1946.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Sanborn Map, 1890, on file at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

⁵⁸ "City Markets, Built on Horse-Buggy Basis, Fight for Auto Space," *The Evening Sun*, May 7, 1937.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ "Richmond Market is Made Smaller," *The Baltimore Sun*, Aug. 20, 1939.

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number of vendors and patrons continued to drop. Finally, after years of struggling to remain open, the market was closed in 1955. The fate of the Richmond Market and Armory buildings remained uncertain until the Maryland General Hospital bought them in 1971, and converted them to medical use in 1973.⁶¹ While the shell of the former Richmond Market was adapted to the adjacent hospital buildings, the loss of the market house signaled the end to the once-thriving neighborhood of local vendors and small neighborhood businesses.

The changes endured by the Richmond Market reflect the larger transformation of the Linden Avenue neighborhood at Biddle Street that affected 890 Linden Avenue. The diminishing residential neighborhoods along Eutaw Place and north of Biddle Street pushed housing farther out to the suburbs. The buildings on the adjacent properties were demolished and replaced with tall, modern office blocks for the state government. In the late 1990s, the entire block of adjoining row houses along Biddle Street were demolished, with the exception of 890 Linden Avenue, which remains as the only row house standing at the northernmost corner of the block.⁶² The demolished row houses were replaced with a small parking lot used by the Maryland General Hospital complex.

The changes in the neighborhood may be seen in the occupation of the commercial space within 890 Linden Avenue, as the businesses occupying the space struggled to adjust to its changing environs. When the Richmond Market flourished, the ground floor of the row house continued to serve as a venue for a variety of small, local businesses. Since the row house was constructed, over the course of its nearly 150 year-long history, it has been transferred to six successive owners.⁶³ At the northeast exterior facade, a large section of plywood at the first story appears to be a patch over what was once a large opening that was cut into the wall, removing one of the original entrances along Biddle Street. This alteration was most likely done between 1910 and 1914, when the ground floor was divided into two commercial spaces, with the additional storefront operating out of the Biddle Street entrance. This division first appears in the 1914 Sanborn Map. This map also indicates that the store designation applies to the building's first floor only.⁶⁴ The small one-story addition to the rear was also added between 1910 and 1914. After the J. N. Matthew's Grocery Store closed in 1926, a second-hand furniture store occupied the space, and, for an unknown period, a perfume shop called Drexel & Co.⁶⁵ The 1936 Baltimore City Directory listed The Drexel & Co. perfumery at 301 Biddle Street address, which was the new address for the store addition within 890 Linden Avenue. The 1940 City Directory indicates that a tailor occupied the 301 Biddle Avenue space, while from 1942 to 1967, a liquor store occupied at least one of the two commercial spaces on the ground floor.

By the 1960s and onward, as the residential neighborhood disappeared, the commercial space eventually became a delicatessen catering to the employees of the Maryland General Hospital to the south, and to the new State Center to the immediate north. The delicatessen's adaptive success lies in contrast to the tenement housing above, which remains abandoned. The delicatessen

⁶¹ Wheatley, n.p.

⁶² Per conversation with William P. McMahon, Senior Vice President, Administration, Maryland General Hospital, 1/15/04.

⁶³ Liber SEB 2825, folio 271; Liber SEB 1910, folio 271; JFC 1219, folio 597; SCL 4711, folio 557; GR 491, folio 517; GES 191, folio 422, on file at the Baltimore City Courthouse.

⁶⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, 1910, 1914.

⁶⁵ Polks' *Baltimore City Directory*, 1936.

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continues to operate in the first-story space, which has been converted to accommodate modernizations.⁶⁶ In the wake of the sweeping development that altered the neighborhood in the latter half of the twentieth century, 890 Linden Avenue stands as a remnant of the former community of small commercial businesses, market stalls, and modest residences that catered to the ethnically and economically diverse communities that surrounded it for one hundred fifty years.

⁶⁶ Per conversation with the current building owner, Yong C. Kim, 1/12/03.

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Figure 1. This 1801 map includes the future site of 890 Linden Avenue, located within the same block as the "Poor House," indicated at the center.

1801 Plan of the City and Environs of Baltimore, Warner & Hanna, Publisher. Enoch Pratt Free Library.

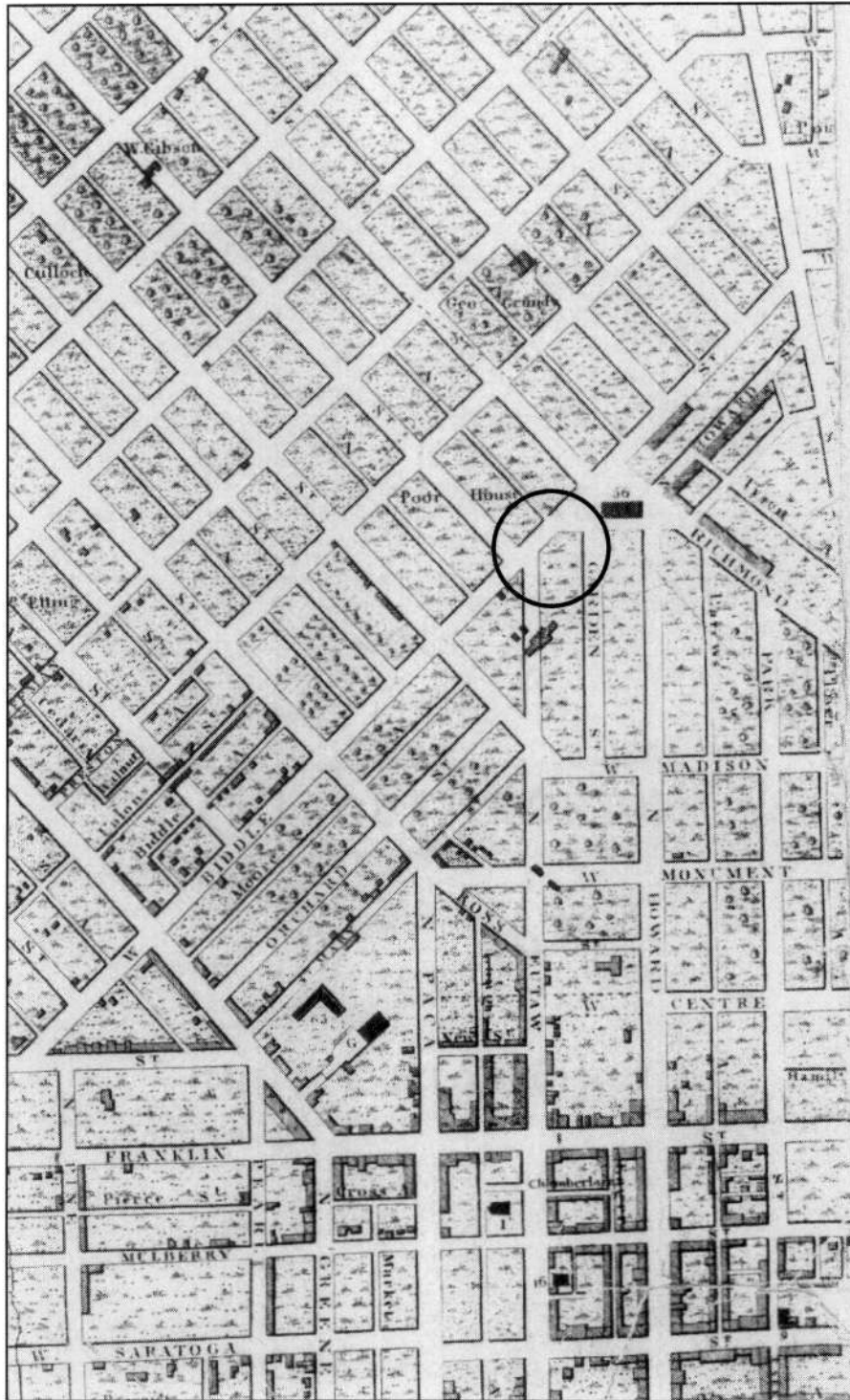


Figure 2. The circle outlined in Poppleton's 1823 map, above, is where 890 Linden Avenue would be built in about forty years. With the exception of the Almshouse, the land in the newly annexed northwest Baltimore is largely undeveloped.

Plan of the City of Baltimore, 1823, Thomas H. Poppleton, surveyor, Joseph Cone, engraver. Enoch Pratt Free Library.

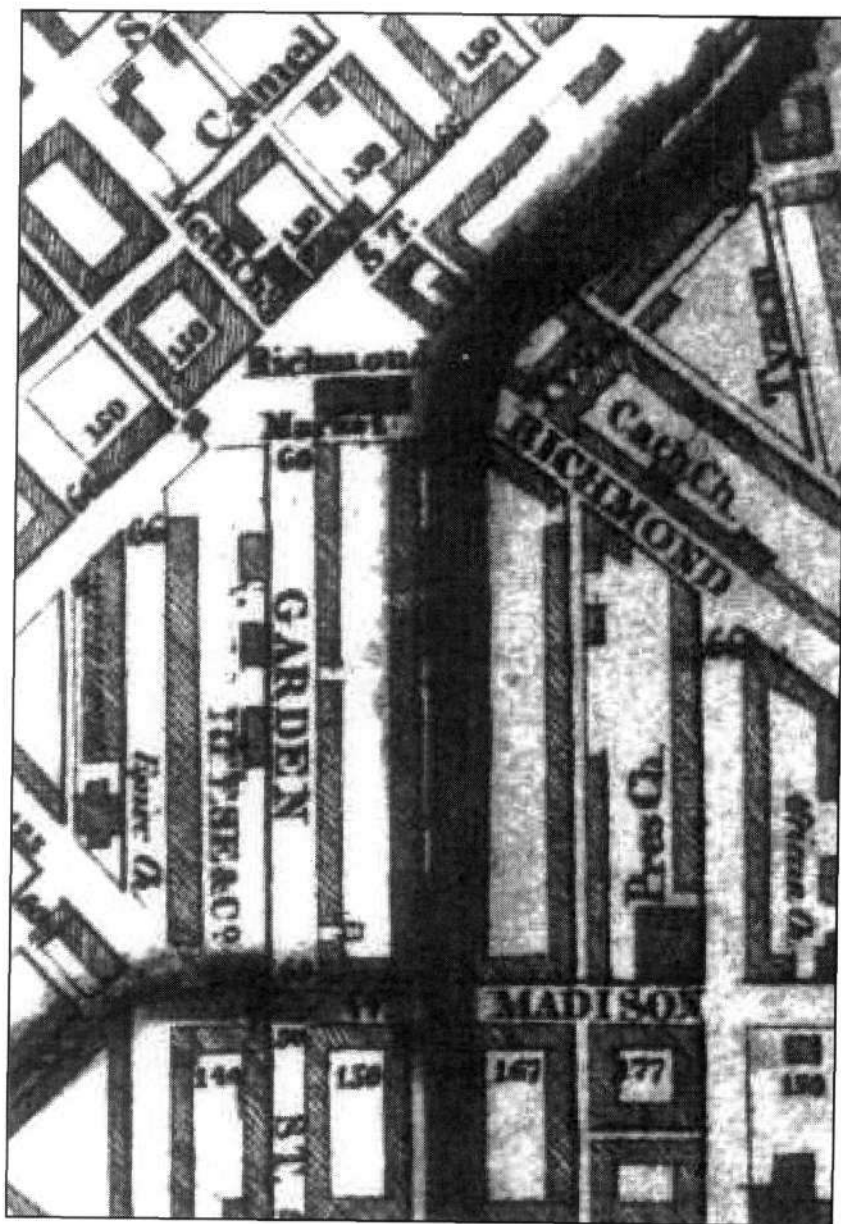


Figure 3. This map, which was mostly likely drawn in 1862, shows significantly increased development along Eutaw and Garden Streets south of the still un-built property at the north end of the block between them.

Martenet's Map of Maryland [including insets of a Plan of Washington and Georgetown, City of Baltimore, and Eastern Virginia], Simon J. Martenet. *Enoch Pratt Free Library*.

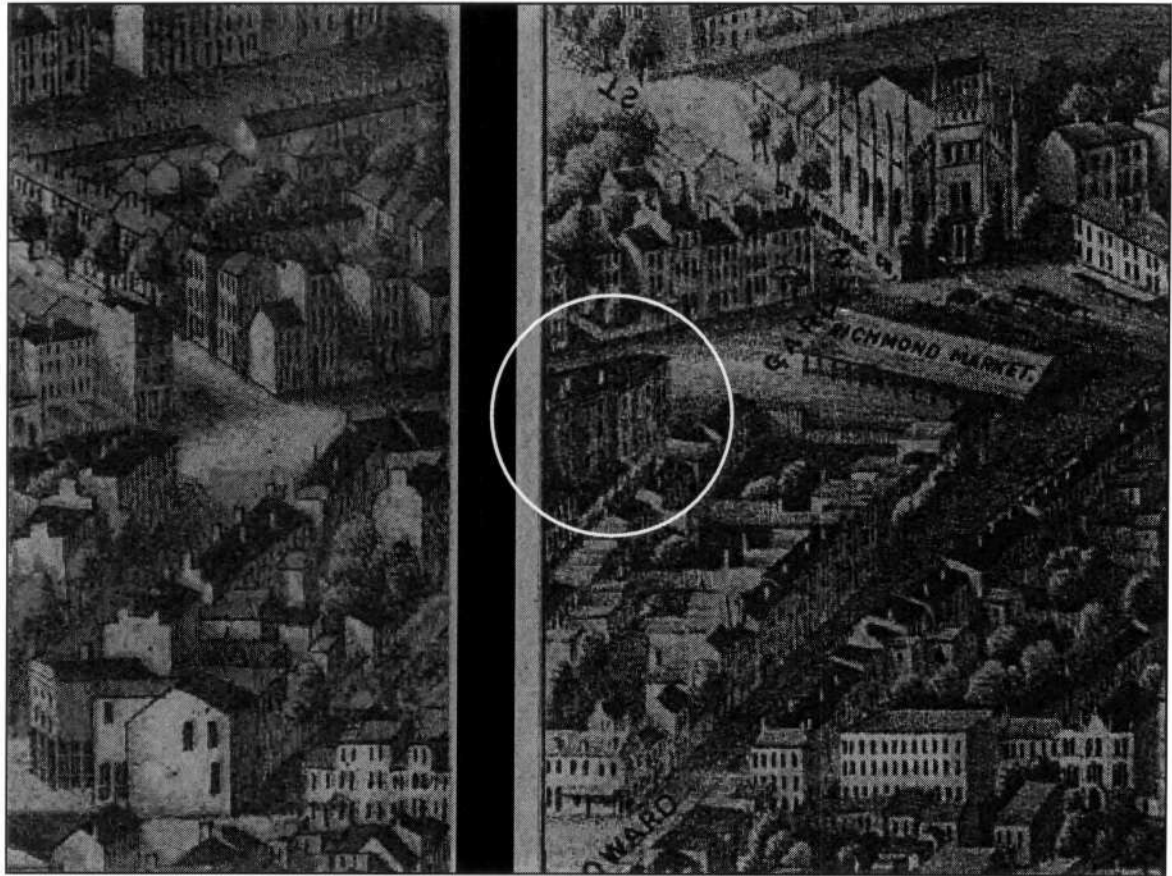


Figure 4. This aerial depiction of Baltimore in 1869 shows the row house at 890 Linden Avenue, circled above, in its context shortly after it was constructed.
Bird's Eye View of the City of Baltimore, 1869, E. Sachse, & Co., Publisher. Enoch Pratt Free Library.



Figure 5. Biddle Alley, seen here in a ca. 1911 photograph, comprised a small section of the neighborhood due north of Biddle Street above 890 Linden Avenue. Poor sanitation and poverty caused the neighborhood to deteriorate after 1900. The buildings were razed during the slum clearance in the 1960s.

Special Collections, Maryland Historical Society.

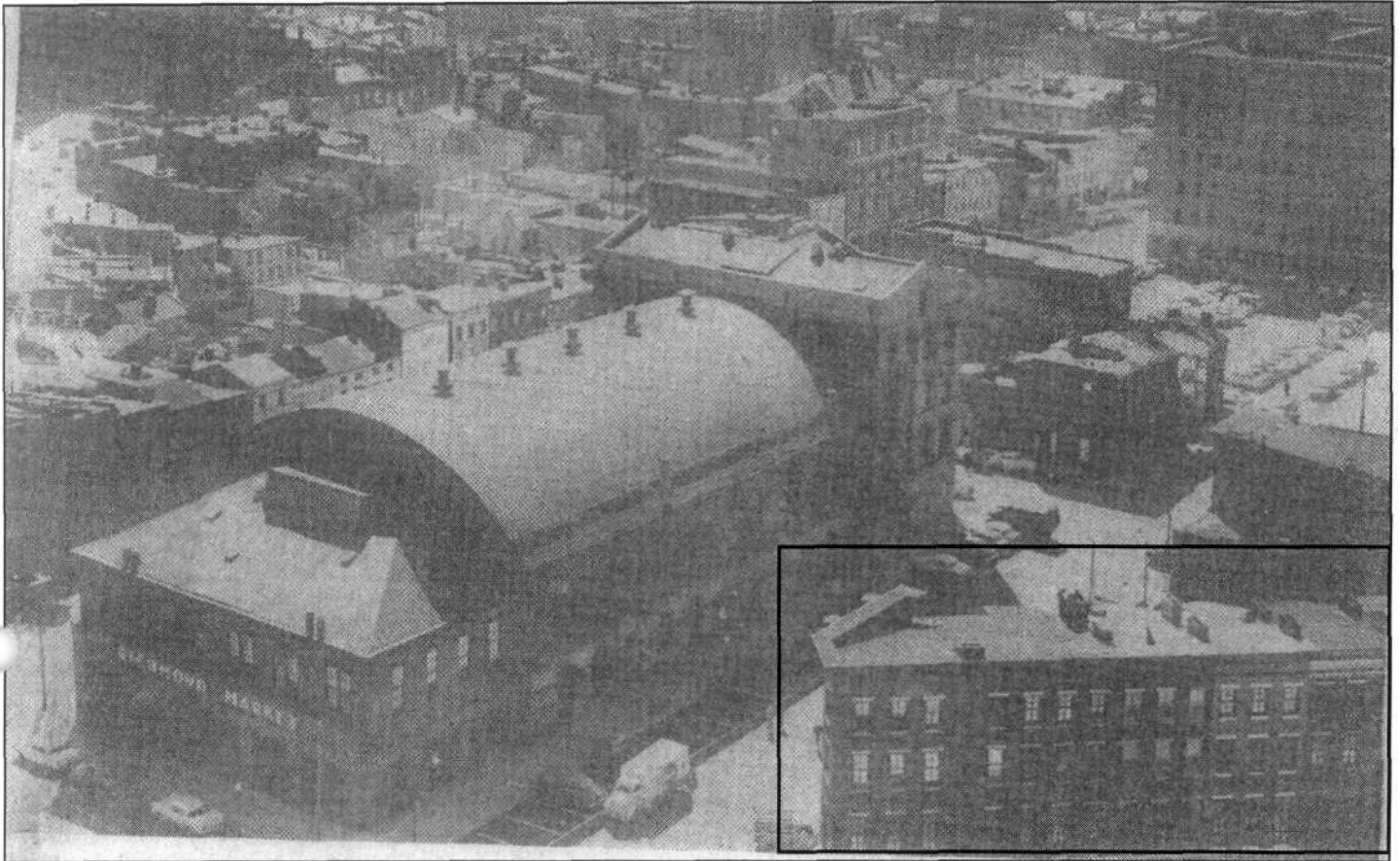


Figure 6. This aerial photograph, taken in ca. 1960, shows four out of the six row houses of the row-house block, outlined at the lower right, of which 890 Linden Avenue formed the terminus, seen at the left side of the block. As was the practice of speculative building, all of the row houses appear to be constructed of red brick with plain stone lintels and sills, forming a continuous aesthetic as a whole.
From the vertical files of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

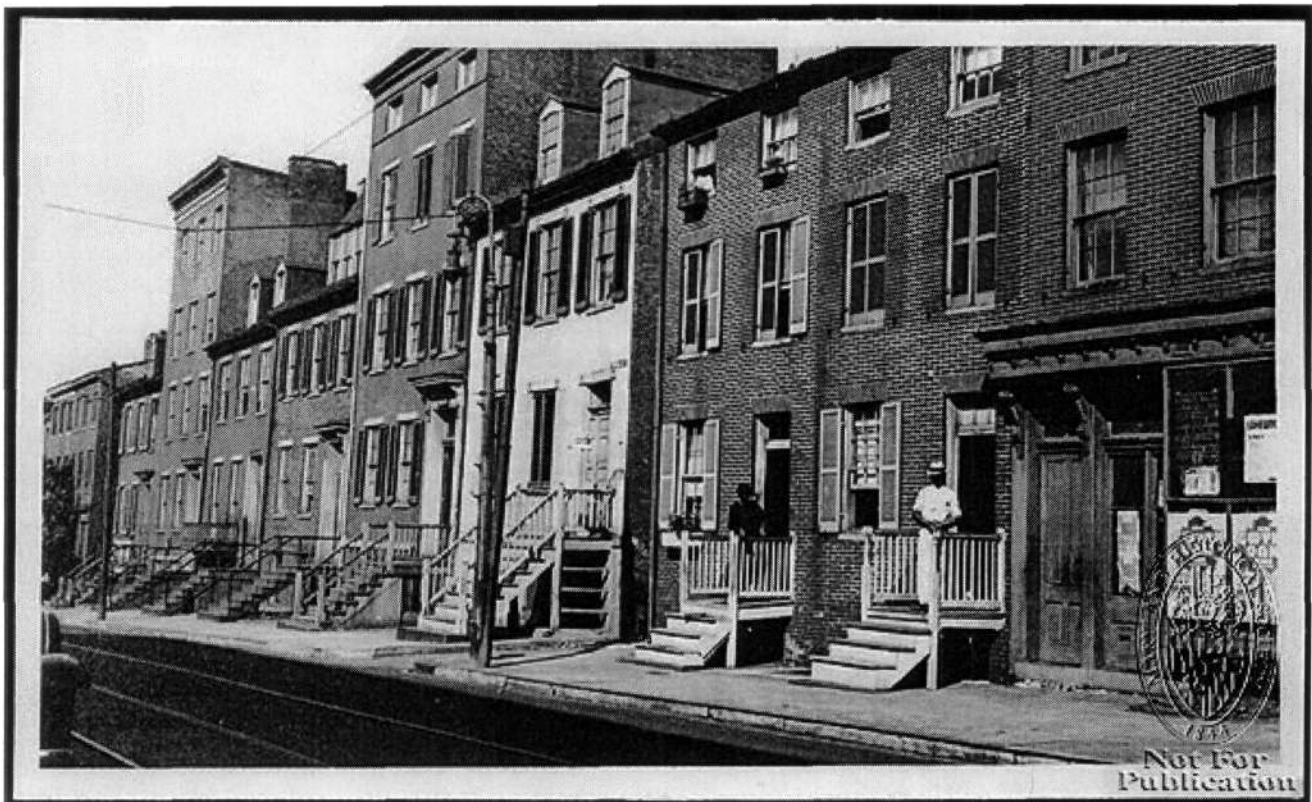



Figure 7. This photograph, taken ca. 1920, is of the 200 block of West Biddle Street, to the adjacent southwest of the row house block including 890 Linden Avenue. It reveals the uniform brick walls and fenestrations while maintaining a variety of building heights, including the tall four-story building at the left, which is similar in style and proportion to the Linden Avenue row house.
Special Collections, Maryland Historical Society.

J.N. MATTHEWS & CO.
Linden Avenue and Biddle Street.

FINE LIQUORS FOR MEDICINAL USE.



FINE OLD JAVA COFFEE.

**TEAS, WINES, GROCERIES, AND
TABLE DELICACIES.**

Figure 8. This advertisement, published in 1898, offers a rare glimpse of the northwest, northeast, and east elevations of 890 Linden Avenue.
From *Society Visiting List or Blue Book*, (Baltimore: Guggenheim, Weil & Co., 1898): 144.

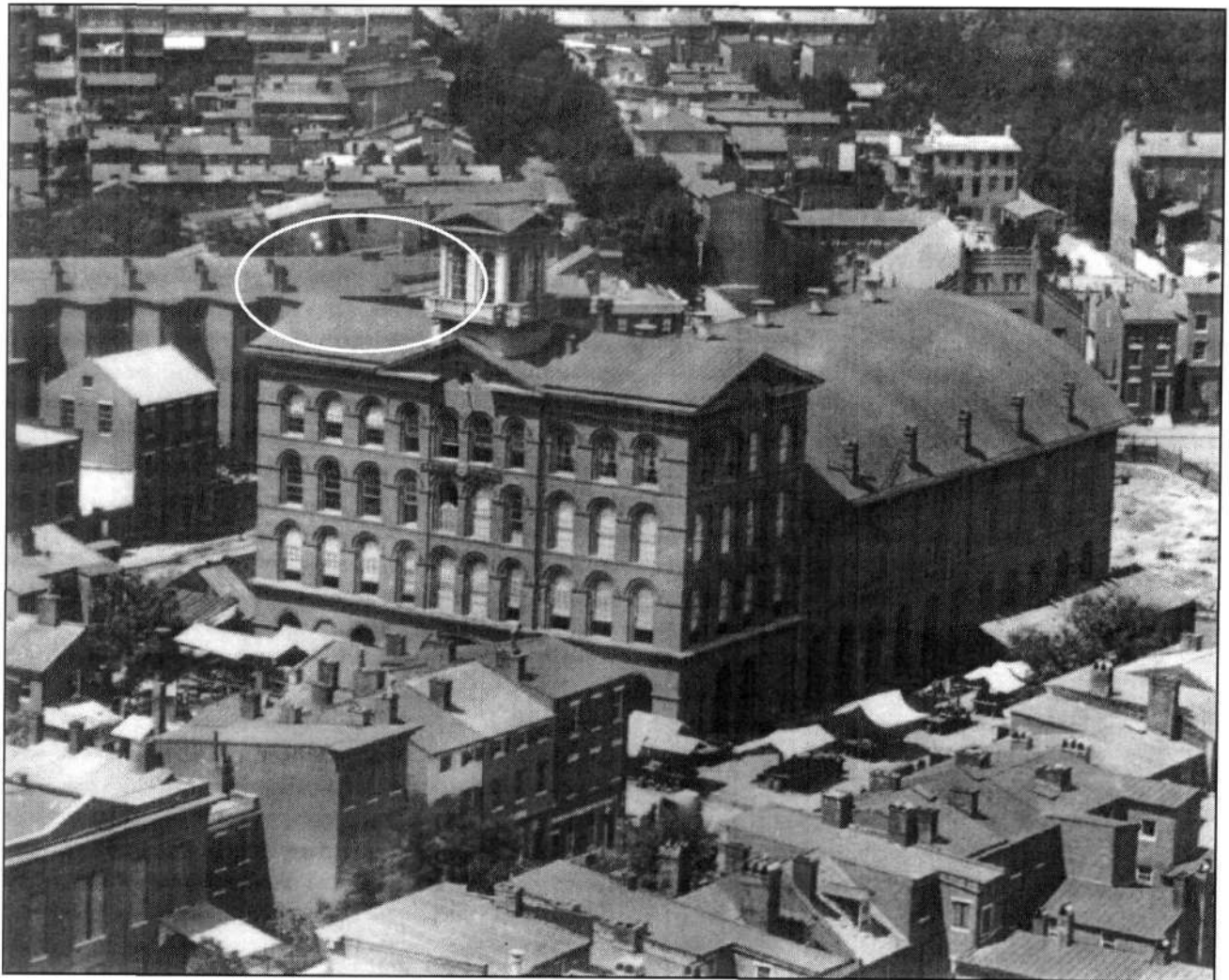
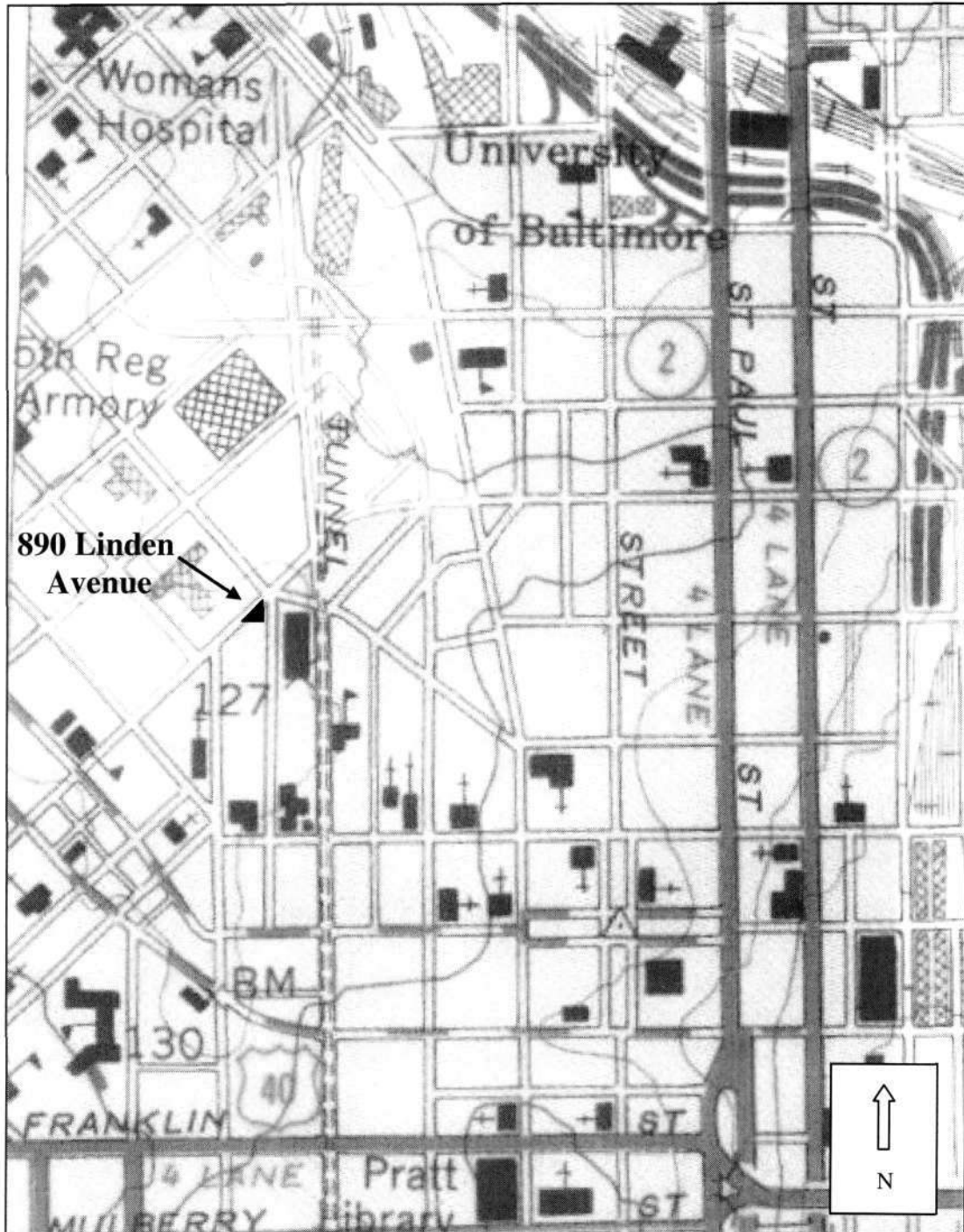


Figure 9. The roof of 890 Linden Avenue (circled above) is seen behind the Fifth Regiment Armory, attached to the Richmond Market's barrel-vaulted hall to its rear. This photograph was taken in 1874, the year after the Richmond Market and Armory buildings were completed. From the Collection of Beverley and Jack Wilgus, as reproduced in Marion E. and Mame Warren, *Baltimore: When She Was What She Used to Be: A Pictorial History, 1850-1930* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983), 49.

890 Linden Avenue
Baltimore City, Maryland
USGS Map, Baltimore East, MD
1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974

MIHP no. B-1371



INDEX TO SLIDES

890 Linden Avenue
Baltimore City
Maryland

MIHP No. B-1371

Photographer: Walter Smalling, Jr.

January 13, 2004

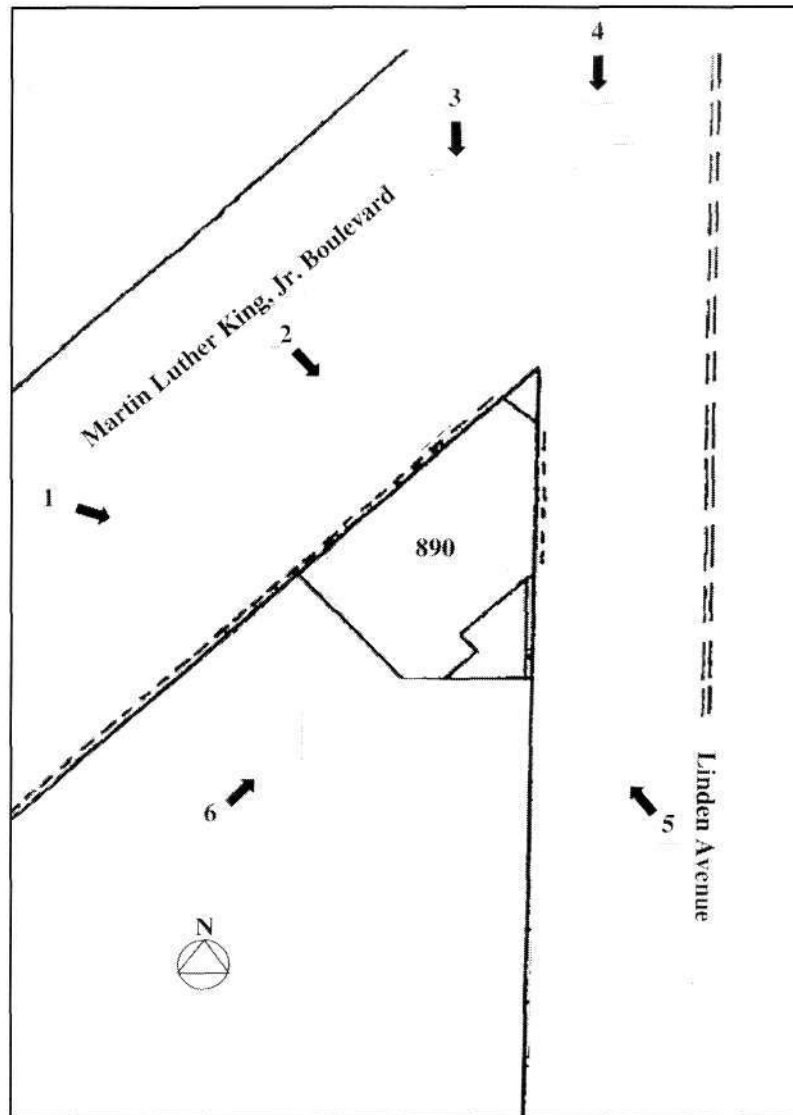
B-1371	-1	VIEW TO EAST-SOUTHEAST
B-1371	-2	VIEW OF NORTHWEST ELEVATION
B-1371	-3	VIEW TO SOUTH
B-1371	-4	VIEW TO SOUTH IN CONTEXT
B-1371	-5	VIEW OF SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
B-1371	-6	VIEW OF SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

Prepared by: Robinson & Associates, Inc.
1909 Q Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

KEY TO SLIDES

890 Linden Avenue
Baltimore City
Maryland

MIPH No. B-1371



INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

890 Linden Avenue
Baltimore City
Maryland

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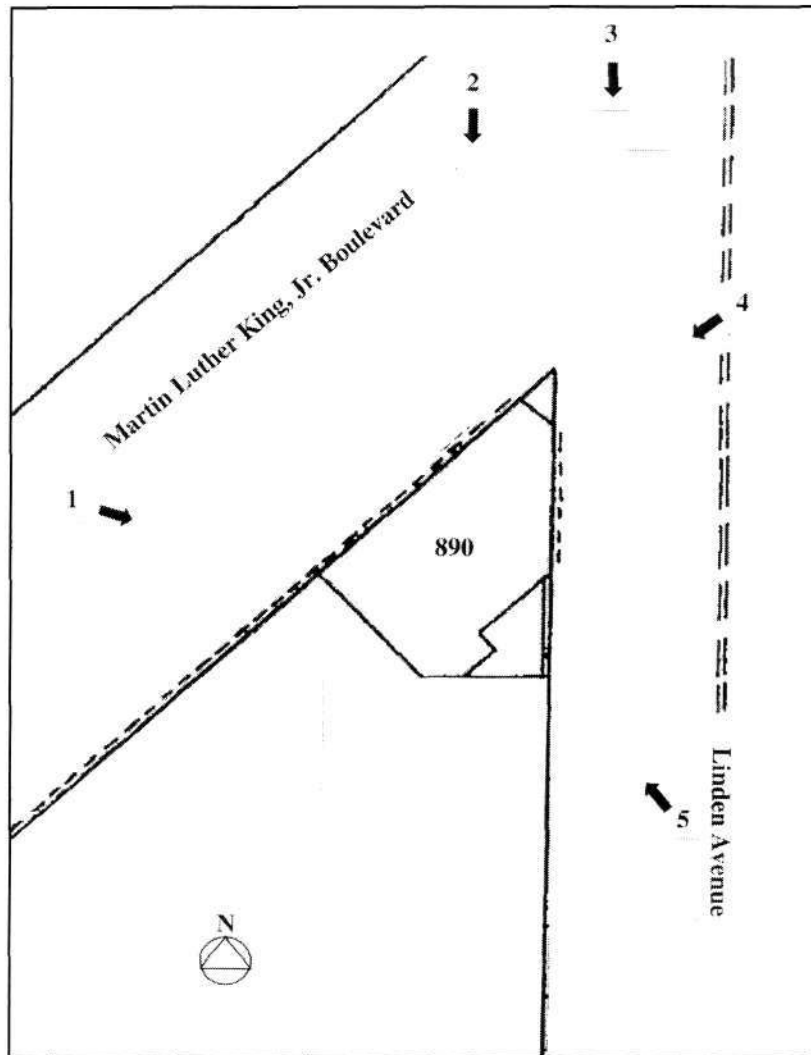
B-1371	-1	VIEW TO EAST-SOUTHEAST
B-1371	-2	VIEW TO SOUTH
B-1371	-3	VIEW TO SOUTH IN CONTEXT
B-1371	-4	VIEW OF EAST AND NORTHEAST ELEVATIONS
B-1371	-5	VIEW OF SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

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KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

890 Linden Avenue
Baltimore City
Maryland

MIPH No. B-1371





B-1371

890 Linden Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Walter Smalling, Jr.

1-13-04

MD SHPO

View to South-Southeast

1/5



B-1371

890 Linden Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Walter Smalling, Jr.

1-13-04

MD SHPO

View to South

2/5



B-1371

890 Linden Ave.
Baltimore City, MD
Walter Smalling, Jr.

1-13-04

MD SHPO

View to South in Context

3/5



B-1371

890 Linden Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Walter Smalling, Jr.

1/13/04

MD SHPO

View of East and Northeast Elevations

4/5



B-1371

890 Linden Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Walter Smalling, Jr.

1-13-04

MD SHPO

View of Southeast Elevation

5/5

